

By BETTY DEBNAM

"Wildcat Whispers" Wins Contest Best Kids' School Newspaper

HAGERSTOWN, MD. — "Wildcat Whispers" is a paper put out by 21 gifted and talented second-through-fifth graders at Woodland Way Elementary School in Hagerstown, Maryland.

The paper won the 1979 Mini Page contest and the \$100 check as the best school newspaper put out by kids in grades K-6.

The Mini Page received 400 entries in the contest held last spring.

The runners-up:

- "76th Street Journal," College Community School, Intermediate Building, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- "Through Wainwright Windows," Wainwright Science and Math Magnet School, Houston, Texas.
- "Willow Brook Gazette," Willow Brook Elementary School, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.
- "Beaver Chatter," Little River School, Bahama, North Carolina.



The staff members of the "Wildcat Whispers" and their teacher and managing editor, Miss Sukey Dorsey, at the right. Miss Dorsey used a puppet, "Super Scooper," to interest kids in the newspaper. Her leadership helped make her "Create It" class of gifted and talented students a success. The class was presented a \$100 check from The Mini Page.

Judges:

The three judges were experienced newspeople and editors of the Washington Star in Washington, D.C.: Mary Lou Forbes (Pulitzer Prize winner), Jean Powell and Dan Poole.

The Winner's Front Page.

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Runaway Bookmobile a Smash
by Stacie Smith
School scene editor

Woodland Way - on Thursday, Feb. 15, the PTA put a play entitled THE RUNAWAY BOOKMOBILE for all the students at Woodland Way. The PTA wanted to introduce the students to the world of reading and show the boys and girls just how fun reading can be.

After the play, each student was given a book which he or she had selected for his or her own. The PTA is participating in the NIF (Reading is Fundamental) Program by purchasing books to give to the student body. The students will be receiving two more books before the end of the year.

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School Flag Contest
by Stacie Smith

The reason for all this history is to get you to dig into your mind and come up with an idea for a school flag. For the students who are interested in entering here are the rules.

1. The flag can be made by an individual or a group of people.
2. Only one design can be given by each student.
3. Designs should be drawn on 8 1/2" x 11" size paper.

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Winning tips on starting your own school newspaper.

- Ideas from the "Wildcat Whispers" staff:**
1. Learn all about the newspaper. Watch a filmstrip; visit a newspaper; learn the newspaper parts and a press vocabulary; invite a reporter to speak to the class.
 2. Practice writing articles that answer these questions: who, what, where, when, why and how. Learn to list facts and throw out unnecessary ones. Read newspaper stories.
 3. Learn to use a camera. (Many of the entries did not use photographs, but used pictures drawn by students.)
 4. Pick a staff. Each person lists the areas he or she wants to work in. The teacher makes the final choice.
 5. Send the staff members out on their duties. Sometimes the reporters can use a tape recorder for interviews.
 6. Have the teacher help to type the articles. Editors proof the stories and write the headlines.
 7. Let the students paste up the articles, art and photos on layout sheets.
 8. Teacher takes the material to a school printer. (Many entries were printed by the school duplicating machines.)
 9. Advertise. Have the staff make up posters and slogans to advertise the paper's sale.
 10. The paper goes on sale! "The students were really in a pickle when they forgot their nickels."